

had the Varanger Guard with **him hi***
WU.H
 thrown. Again on May **4th, the arnuVs**
 ittrt itt
 Monte Maggiore on the **Ofanto, ami the-**
Normun
 horse, swollen now to two **thousand,**
rt*d<* **down**
 and broke the redoubtable Vfiningw;;
MniiinrtM
 was the only man who might have
wmn! fit? *
 Empire at home and abroad; **he was;**
sent lAfril,
 1042) to check the Normans, **but**
intolerable **trewi** *
 ment from the court **forrtui** him **intu**
rrvolt;
 returning to the **mainland* hi***
eommcwxHl **to**
 march upon the capita! **hut** was
murdered **Wort***
 an ambition which was **not ignoble**
 t'tmlii riw **tn**
 the imperial throne **itself, With him**
tlittl **14**
 great commander of the type **i»f**
KiniiMrs **and**
 Phocas,
 The hero days of the Basiliim dynnnty
r»vrr;
 from 1028 to 1057 favourites and
 ii«p|«*ls t»i»-
 managed the Empire*, **25o& and**
Thttxlra, **the** **Utn**
 of the dynasty, were responsible' Far **u**
»uf<rT*nitm
 of incompetent or poworJeim E«i|»t*r«*r?*,
thrir
 husbands; after them twenty-four y«trt»
 «f ihw
 making and unmaking **of** Basiltns **with**
 little i-kiitt
 or character ended at last in **the**
wivssifm *»f tiir
 Comneni in 1081. By that **timt* inttTnal**
 mitt W«H
 far advanced; Italy and Asia **Minur wi«rr**
h*»ii **t«»**

Norman and Turk, and none from
either side. It was the
fleets or the armies of Byzantium. Their
triumph
of the Normans in Apulia and Calabria
was
due largely to their own skill and
courage. But it
was aided by the sudden and
extraordinary
collapse of the Eastern Empire; a 200-year or
a